

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes-Final
April 15, 2015

Commissioners present: Sheri Baron, Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney (Chair), Ghanda DiFiglia, Mel Goldsipe, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Bill Logan

Absent: Stacy Davison, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton

Others present: Christine Bongiorno (Health & Human Services), Yawa Degboe (Diversity Task Group)

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes:

The March minutes were accepted as amended with M. Briggett abstaining.

Correspondence:

An email message was received from Melanie Konstandakis-Schwartz saying that the Arlington High School Civil Rights Retreat AHRC helped sponsor went well.

A voicemail message was received for J. Loayza regarding following up on the recent community dialogue event, Unequal Justice; Loayza returned the call but the caller was busy at the time.

Incidents and Complaints:

There was a police report about an incident of racial epithets against an Asian-Pacific Islander man. B. Logan offered to reach out to the person regarding services AHRC offers.

Admin Assistant Update:

Christine Bongornio reported on the Administrative Assistant position for AHRC. 7 applicants have been identified to interview. M. Briggett offered to sit in on the interviews.

C. Bongiorno reported that she is still working on the issue of creating town.arlington.ma.us email addresses for commissioners but there are issues with licensing. The idea is to create one address for the Commission, but this brings up issues regarding Freedom of Information Acts and open meeting rules.

Commission Openings:

Chair Carney reported that Douglass Davidoff has resigned as a commissioner. AHRC now has 2 commissioner openings (1 appointed by the Town Manager, 1 appointed by the Town Moderator). Interviews are being conducted for new commissioners next week.

Board of Selectmen Appointment for Ex. Director:

A motion to table discussion of the Board of Selectmen appointment for AHRC Executive Director passed with B. Logan abstaining. We will invite the Town Manager to attend a meeting after Town Meeting concludes.

AHS Student Liaison:

A motion to table discussion of adding an Arlington High student liaison to AHRC passed unanimously.

Subcommittee updates:

Joint Arlington School Committee/AHRC Subcommittee – S. Grossman reported that the group met again in March, with the Assistant Superintendent in attendance. They're still pulling together data regarding suspensions over the last year.

LGBTQ needs assessment – Chair Carney reports that the town will pay mailing costs for the survey. We can drop them off for mailing or submit postage receipts. In either case, the address on the envelope must be The Arlington Human Rights Commission, 27 Maple Street. We need to encumber funds at the May meeting to printing the survey this fiscal year. The invoice will have to be submitted by June 1.

Showing of *Selma* – B. Logan reported that film has not been released yet on DVD/Blu-Ray and further potential event cosponsors are still being sought.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles: AHRC: Response:

G. DiFiglia moved that AHRC accept the Board of Selectmen's vote of no action regarding AHRC hearing complaints against town department (Town Meeting article 9). The motion passed with B. Logan abstaining.

G. DiFiglia moved that AHRC accept the vote of no action from the finance committee regarding financing an AHRC Executive Director (Town Meeting article 33). The motion passed with B. Logan abstaining.

Community Updates and Happenings:

None reported.

G. DiFiglia moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Submitted by Mel Goldsipe, Commissioner